

COMPOSTING PROCESS BY USING PALM
OIL MILL EFFLUENT (POME) AEROBIC
SLUDGE, DECANTER CAKE AND RICE
HUSK ASH

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ABSTRAK

Industri kilang kelapa sawit telah menyumbang kepada pencemaran yang signifikan terutamanya pencemaran sungai apabila mereka melepaskan efluen mereka seperti kumbahan POME dan kek dekanter ke dalam sungai. Untuk menyelesaikan masalah alam sekitar, sisa-sisa ini boleh digunakan sebagai baja melalui proses pengkomposan. Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat beberapa kelemahan yang mungkin berlaku dalam proses pengkomposan dari segi masa yang diperlukan dan kualiti kompos. Untuk memudahkan proses pengkomposan, adalah disarankan untuk menggunakan abu sekam padi sebagai bahan mentah tambahan kerana sifat fizikal dan kimianya. Objektif kerja ini adalah untuk mencirikan sifat fizikal dan kimia bahan mentah (enapcemar POME aerobik, kek dekanter, abu sekam padi), untuk memformulasikan baja kompos organik pada komposisi abu sekam padi yang berbeza, untuk menilai kesan pemanasan terhadap proses pengkomposan dan untuk membandingkan sifat fizikokimia kompos yang dirumuskan dengan produk komersial yang sedia ada. Dalam kerja ini, enapcemar POME aerobik dan kek dekanter dicampurkan dengan nisbah berat tetap (1:1) dengan penambahan jumlah abu sekam padi yang berbeza. Kemudian, proses pengkomposan dilakukan selama 50 hari dengan menggunakan tong kompos. Semasa proses pengkomposan, profil suhu dan pH kompos dipantau setiap hari. Setelah proses pengkomposan selesai, kompos yang matang dianalisis dari segi analisis unsur, pH, kandungan kelembapan dan kapasiti pegangan air. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa komposisi abu sekam padi sebanyak 6.98% menunjukkan hasil yang signifikan dalam rumusan kompos kerana berjaya mengekalkan kandungan kelembapan pada julat 50-60% dan julat 61-73% untuk kapasiti pegangan air. Pada akhir pengkomposan, sampel yang mengandungi 6.98% abu sekam padi memperoleh pH 6.44, nisbah C/N sebanyak 10.28 dan nisbah N-P-K sebanyak 3.3-8.1-9.7. Hasil daripada kajian ini digunakan untuk kajian yang seterusnya dengan menggunakan kaedah pemanasan paksa. Kaedah pemanasan paksa menghasilkan kompos yang mengandungi kelembapan dan kapasiti pegangan air yang rendah berbanding kaedah tong kompos. Walau bagaimanapun, kedua-dua kaedah tidak memberikan perbezaan ketara dari segi sifat kimia (makronutrien dan mikronutrien).

ABSTRACT

Palm oil mill industry had contributed to significant pollution especially river pollution when they discharged their effluents such as POME sludge and decanter cake into the rivers. To solve the environmental problem, these wastes can be utilized as fertilizer through composting process. However, there are some drawbacks in which possibly occur in composting process such as time consuming and the quality of compost. In order to facilitate the composting process, it was suggested to use rice husk ashes as additional raw materials due to its physical and chemical properties. The objectives of this work are to characterize the physical and chemical properties of raw materials (POME aerobic sludge, decanter cake, rice husk ash), to formulate the organic compost at different rice husk ash composition, to observe the heating effect towards the composting process and to compare the physicochemical properties of formulated compost with existing commercial product. In this work, POME aerobic sludge and decanter cake were mixed at constant weight ratio of (1:1) with addition of different amount of rice husk ashes. Then, the composting processes were carried out in 50 days by using compost bins. During the composting process, temperature and pH profile of compost were monitored daily. After composting process completed, the matured compost was analysed in terms of elemental analysis, pH, moisture content and water holding capacity. The result indicates that rice husk ash composition at 6.98% gives significant results in the compost formulation as the moisture content maintain within the range of 50-60% and range of 61-73% for water holding capacity. At the end of composting, sample with 6.98% rice husk ash obtain pH of 6.44, C/N ratio of 10.28 and N-P-K ratio of 3.3-8.1-9.7. The results obtain from this study were used for subsequent study by using forced heating composter. Forced heating composter produced compost with lower moisture content and water holding capacity compared to compost bin. However, composting by using both methods did not give significant difference in terms of chemical properties (macronutrients and micronutrients).

Key words: POME aerobic sludge, decanter cake, rice husk ash, composting

TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION	
TITLE PAGE	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
ABSTRAK	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENT	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF SYMBOLS	x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Research Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	1
1.3 Motivation	3
1.4 Research Objectives	4
1.5 Scopes of Study	4
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) Aerobic Sludge	6
2.3 Decanter Cake	9
2.4 Rice Husk Ash	12
2.5 Methods Available to Produce Organic Fertilizer	14
2.5.1 Composting	15

2.5.2	Vermicomposting	17
2.5.3	Solid-State Fermentation (SSF)	18
2.6	Methods Comparison	19
2.7	Parameters in Composting	20
2.8	Macronutrients and Micronutrients	23
2.9	Forced Heating Composter and Compost Bin	25
2.9.1	Forced Heating Composter	26
2.9.2	Compost Bin	27
2.10	Characteristics of Ideal Finished Compost	27
2.10.1	Moisture Content	28
2.10.2	Water Holding Capacity	28
2.10.3	pH	28
2.10.4	N-P-K Ratio	29
2.10.5	C/N Ratio	29
2.11	Summary	29
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY		30
3.1	Introduction	30
3.2	Fabrication of Compost Bins	32
3.3	Raw Material Preparation & Characterization	33
3.3.1	Moisture Content	35
3.3.2	Water Holding Capacity	35
3.3.3	pH	36
3.3.4	CHNS Analysis	36
3.3.5	X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Spectrometry Analysis	36
3.4	Experimental Set Up for Composting Process Using Compost Bin	36

3.5	Experimental Set Up for Composting Process Using Forced Heating Composter	39
3.6	Experimental Set Up for Physicochemical Properties Comparison Between Formulated Compost and Commercial Fertilizer	43
3.7	Summary	44
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION		45
4.1	Introduction	45
4.2	Physicochemical Properties of Raw Materials	45
4.3	Effect of Rice Husk Ash on Composting Process	48
4.3.1	Temperature profile	48
4.3.2	pH profile	51
4.3.3	Physical properties of matured compost	53
4.3.4	Chemical properties of matured compost	55
4.4	Heating Effect on Compost Properties	59
4.5	Comparison of Formulated Compost With Commercial Fertilizer	62
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION		66
5.1	Conclusion	66
5.2	Recommendations	67
REFERENCES		69
APPENDICES		84
APPENDIX A		85
APPENDIX B LIST OF PUBLICATIONS		91

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Characteristics of POME aerobic sludge	9
Table 2.2	Characteristics of decanter cake	11
Table 2.3	Comparison on the application of decanter cake	11
Table 2.4	Characteristics of rice husk ash	13
Table 2.5	Comparison on the application of rice husk ash	14
Table 2.6	Comparison of methods to produce fertilizer	19
Table 2.7	Description for each parameter in composting process	21
Table 2.8	Roles macronutrients and micronutrients	24
Table 3.1	Composition of mixture in compost bins	37
Table 4.1	Physical properties of raw materials	46
Table 4.2	Comparison on pH of compost	53
Table 4.3	Physical properties of matured compost	54
Table 4.4	Comparison of moisture content	55
Table 4.5	N-P-K ratio and C/N ratio for compost	58
Table 4.6	Physical properties of compost made by using compost bin and forced heating composter	59
Table 4.7	Physical properties comparison between formulated compost with commercial chicken manure fertilizer	62

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Conventional method process flow diagram for POME treatment	7
Figure 2.2	Applications of POME Sludge	8
Figure 2.3	Applications of decanter cake	10
Figure 2.4	Applications of rice husk ash	13
Figure 2.5	The concept of composting	15
Figure 2.6	Temperature profile for average pile during composting	16
Figure 2.7	Forced heating composter	26
Figure 3.1	Workflow in this study	31
Figure 3.2	Schematic diagram for compost bin	32
Figure 3.3	Sampling point for temperature measurement	33
Figure 3.4	Steps for raw material characterization	34
Figure 3.5	Raw material used in the experiment	34
Figure 3.6	Temperature meter used in the experiment	38
Figure 3.7	pH meter used in the experiment	38
Figure 3.8	Workflow to determine the effect of rice husk ash composition	39
Figure 3.9	Forced heating composter used in the experiment	40
Figure 3.10	Schematic diagram for forced heating composter	41
Figure 3.11	Workflow to investigate the effect of heating on compost properties	42
Figure 3.12	Steps to compare formulated fertilizer with commercial fertilizer	43
Figure 4.1	Chemical properties of raw materials	47
Figure 4.2	Temperature profile for composting process	49
Figure 4.3	pH profile for composting process	52
Figure 4.4	Elemental composition of compost	56
Figure 4.5	Elemental composition of compost made by using compost bin and forced heating composter	60
Figure 4.6	Comparison of chemical properties between formulated compost and chicken manure fertilizer	64

LIST OF SYMBOLS

cm	Centimeters
g	Grams
°C	Degree celcius

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
C	Carbon
CHNS	Carbon Hydrogen Nitrogen Sulphur
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
EFB	Empty fruit bunch
FFB	Fresh fruit bunch
K	Potassium
MC	Moisture content
N	Nitrogen
P	Phosphorus
PKC	Palm kernel cake
POME	Palm oil mill effluent
POMS	Palm oil mill sludge
RHA	Rice husk ash
Si	Silica
SSF	Solid-State Fermentation
TSS	Total Suspended Solid
VSS	Volatile Suspended Solid
WHC	Water holding capacity
XRF	X-Ray Fluorescence

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